

Overlea High School

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Dr. Monica Sample, Principal

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February 1, 2024

Good Evening Overlea Scholars and Caregivers:

The success of the Overlea Scholar is a three-way partnership between Overlea staff, scholar, and Caregiver. It requires the cooperation of all three parties to ensure every Overlea scholar is successful. We are now officially halfway through the 2023 - 2024 school year. Second semester and quarter 3 began on January 23rd. This quarter is critical to ensuring that all our scholars are meeting with academic and behavioral success as well as ensuring that every scholar is promoted to the next grade level. The Overlea faculty and staff needs your partnership and support to help us to address the following concerns we are seeing with our scholars.

Reminder: All Students Have Access to Free Breakfast and Free Lunch

Hunger can impact a child's capacity for learning. Breakfast is available until 7:45 every morning. Outside food items are not permitted at Overlea High school after 7:45 a.m. The delivery of outside food items by any companies and/or individuals (including parents and guardians) to our scholars is not permitted at any time. Any scholar who violates this policy is subject to disciplinary action.

Reminder: School Begins at 7:45 am!

For Overlea scholars to be successful in their assigned courses, students need to be in each class on time and ready for learning. Scholars should be seated in class by 7:45 am, thus should arrive at school by 7:30 - 7:40 am to have time to get breakfast and make their way to class. Scholars are considered late if they enter school or class after the 7:45 bell. If your scholar is late to school, an excuse note should be provided. Acceptable examples of excuse notes are as follows: ***illness note from caregiver or doctor, a note from a doctor stating the student is late due to a medical appointment, or the scholar is late due to documented lateness of BCPS transportation.*** If your scholar arrives at school after 10:00 am without an excuse note, a phone call to the scholar's parent and/or guardian will be made to verify lateness. Scholars are also held accountable to report to all classes on time. Scholars are allowed a 5-minute transitional time between classes before they are considered late. Repetitive lateness will continued to be addressed with the following consequences like phone calls home, Overlea Overtime (afterschool detention), required parent conferences, and loss of points on assignments given in class.

Reminder: Students are Expected to Attend School Regularly!

As the saying goes "Be here to get there" or "Attend Today. Achieve Tomorrow." It's important for our scholars to come to school. BCPS Policy 5120 provides guidelines and standards for student attendance like examples of lawful excuses and how students should not be absent more than 10% each quarter. If your scholar is absent, please provide an excuse note. Scholars are not entitled to be provided make-up work for unexcused absences. If scholars have excessive unexcused absences, this is a Category I offense and could result in disciplinary action. Any student missing 10 consecutive unexcused days from school may be referred to the Pupil Personnel Officer and/or be withdrawn from Overlea High School.

Reminder: Students Must Follow the BCPS Code of Conduct!

The administrative team has reviewed behavioral data, and we have identified an uptick of misbehaviors like cutting class, bullying (cyber and in-person), and fighting. Please review BCPS Policy and Superintendent's Rule 5550, Disruptive Behavior, located on the BCPS website. All student code of conduct, rules, and norms of Overlea High School are aligned to policy and rule 5550. A student handbook orientation was conducted with all scholars in September of 2023. Scholars who violate the Code of Conduct will be subject to disciplinary action. **We will not tolerate disruptive behavior, this includes fighting, threats on individuals, and/or physical attacks. Physical attacks and fighting are major category offenses that are subject to out of school suspension ranging from 5-10 days in length.** In addition, fighting, threats, physical attacks, or disruptive behavior will result in one or more of the following disciplinary consequences below in addition to suspension or expulsion. This list does not represent the full range of disciplinary consequences:

- Exclusion from Junior and/or Senior Proms. May include exclusion from future proms for 9th and 10th graders.
- Social Exclusion from after-school activities. Exclusion from assemblies or school events occurring during the school day (e.g. pep rallies, assemblies, featured speakers, field trips, etc.).
- Exclusion from participation in extracurricular activities including athletics, clubs, and organization affiliations.
- Exclusion from athletic games (home or away contests).

Participation in these activities is a privilege and not a right! Please encourage your scholar to seek help from one of the many resourceful individuals in the building before an altercation or inappropriate behavior occurs.

Reminder: Seniors Must Follow Early Release Protocol

Seniors with Early Release are to follow the Overlea High School protocol, or they will lose their Early Release privilege and/or lose participation in senior activities:

- They are to leave the building at their designated time noted on their schedule.
- If they have A lunch and would like to get food in the cafe, they may attend A lunch, but may only be dismissed after lunch is over.
- If they participate in an afterschool activity, they must still leave at their designated time and return no earlier than 2:30.
- They may not stay in the building if they do not have a ride. The student is responsible for their transportation for early release. Consequences are the following for those scholars who do not leave after their early release time:
 - 1st time: Warning to leave school grounds immediately.
 - 2nd time: Phone call home.
 - 3rd time: Schedule changed to reflect a full course load (8 classes).

Additional Reminders and Thoughts!

In addition, here are some other notable **reminders** to ensure our Overlea scholars are safe and have a conducive learning environment:

- The bus loop is closed from 7:00 am – 7:45 am and 1:45 pm - 2:45 pm so our scholars can safely exit and enter the buses.
- Cell phones should be off and away during classroom learning. Encourage your scholar to follow their teachers rules regarding technology in their classrooms. **Please monitor your**

scholar's social media for inappropriate conversation, bullying / harassment, or sexual content. Behaviors of this nature will result in a disciplinary consequence.

- Students are not allowed to wear the following to school:
 - ski masks, clothing that depicts inappropriate activities or language, or revealing clothing or clothing designed to call undue attention to the body. Students will be asked to change clothes or will be sent home.
- Suspicion, possession or being under the influence of illegal substances provides reasonable cause to be searched, given an impairment assessment by the nurse, and a consequence that could include suspension. Refusal to be searched will result in an additional disciplinary and possible legal consequence.
- Vaping is not allowed on school grounds. If a student is suspected of vaping, caught vaping, has a vape in their possession, or has vape paraphernalia, disciplinary consequences will be administered.

We thank you for your partnership and support and helping us to keep your scholar and our school community safe.





Sincerely,

Dr. Monica Sample

Dr. Monica Sample
Principal

Overlea Family Resources

Counseling Department	Restorative Practices/SEL Team
A – D Ms. Whitehurst, lwhitehurst@bcps.org	Mr. Simmons, esimmons2@bcps.org
E – K Ms. Kurcoba, bkurcoba@bcps.org	Coach Williams, pwilliams8@bcps.org
L – R Mr. Childs, rchilds@bcps.org	Ms. Edwards, cedwards8@bcps.org
S – Z Ms. Stephan, lstephan@bcps.org	Mr. Harris, mharris16@bcps.org

		
Overlea High School Website Our website has a lot of great information!	Download the Focus APP! Monitor your scholar's attendance and grades.	Talkspace Free online support and therapy for BCPS HS students.
	Schoology Access Codes Class of 2024 VTV2-DC3S-7M4XT Class of 2025 8PB6-8NVJ-WQQQX Class of 2026 8677-KHZN-FQG2Z Class of 2027 9RPK-KG6Q-F4SWD	We are ONE. Overachieve. Never Quit. Exceed Expectations.
BCPS Social-Emotional Support Website		